

## **CIRCULAR LETTER : DHCQ 02-06-426**

To: Chief Executive Officers of Hospitals Providing Cardiac Surgery or Angioplasty  
From: Paul Dreyer, Ph.D., Director  
Subject: Information Reporting Requirements for Cardiac Surgery and Angioplasty  
Date: June 5, 2002

---

In January you received Circular Letter DHCQ-02-01-421. This letter described the proposed requirements for reporting Cardiac Surgery and Angioplasty information to the Department and to national data registries. The Department developed the requirements in compliance with mandates contained in Chapter 159 of the Acts of 2000.

In April, the Public Health Council approved the regulations implementing these reporting requirements, and the regulations became effective May 24. Under the reporting requirements, all cardiac surgery programs in Massachusetts must collect individual patient-level data using the Society of Thoracic Surgeons' (STS) dataset, and join the STS data registry. Similarly, hospitals performing angioplasty must collect data using the American College of Cardiology's National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDRTM) and join the NCDRTM registry as well. These datasets are described in detail at <http://www.sts.org/> (the home page of the Society for Thoracic Surgeons), and <http://www.acc.org/> (the home page of the American College of Cardiology). In addition to these two datasets, the requirements include provisions for the collection of 30-day all-cause mortality for surgical patients; that is mortality 30 days from the date of the surgery.

Based on comments received at the public hearing held in April, the date of implementation for the angioplasty data set was moved to April 1, 2003, i.e., the data submission applies to all patients who have angioplasty on or after April 1, 2003. The date of implementation for the cardiac surgery data set remains January 1, 2002. Please note that hospitals that do not perform cardiac surgery but are participating in the Department's special project to perform primary angioplasty must comply with the data requirements regarding angioplasty. A copy of the regulations is attached for your reference.

You will receive further information about data submission procedures in the near future. We look forward to working with you on the implementation of the new data requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Gorga at (617)624-5184.

cc: Invasive Cardiac Surgery Advisory Committee (ICSAC)  
bcc: Interested Parties/Cardiac Services